

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

For Immediate Release

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**Haitian Diaspora leaders to convene at the
2012 Global Haitian Diaspora Congress at OAS Headquarters in DC.**

WASHINGTON, DC August 3, 2012 – The Haitian Diaspora Federation (HDF), with support from the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States (OAS), the Office of the Haiti Special Coordinator, United States State Department, the Embassy Of Haiti, and the Delegations of Haiti and Spain to the OAS, will hold the 2012 Global Haitian Diaspora Congress October 19-20, 2012 in Washington DC at the Organization of American States Headquarters.

Themed "Unity for Results In and Out of Haiti, " the Congress follows up from the 2008 and 2009 Haitian Diaspora Unity Congresses and the more recent post-earthquakes outreach efforts such as the March 2010 OAS-sponsored Haitian Diaspora forum, Montreal NGO Forum, and a series of HDF Town Hall Meetings held in US states' main Haitian Diaspora enclaves (NY, NJ, FL, Mass, PA, GA, Ill.) The lesson learned from these activities is that the Haitian Diaspora is determined to meaningfully involve itself in the reconstruction and sustainable development of Haiti and to be collectively active in the affairs of their countries of adoption.

The purpose of the 2012 Congress is to attract and gather the Diaspora leaders and organizational representatives of the 4.5 million Haitian Diaspora from around the world to a) review and critique the Haitian Diaspora's strengths, weaknesses, needs and trends and b) explore and agree on ways to further focus their resources -- intellectual, financial, educational, professional, civic and charitable -- towards those goals.

"Haiti's Diaspora offers bountiful evidence of what can be achieved when opportunities are twined with talents," Dr. Robert Maguire told the Subcommittee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate. *"The Haitian Diaspora willingness to unite for what is best for Haitians in and out of Haiti is a giant step forward,"* said Dr. Joseph Baptiste, chairman of NOAH and president of the Haitian Diaspora Federation. *"Development is endogenous and requires cultural competence,"* said Dr. Bernier Lauredan, chairman of The Haitian League, co-creator of The Haitian Diaspora Congress and vice president of The Haitian Diaspora Federation. *"And the Haitian Diaspora offers both,"* he added.

The Haitian Diaspora Federation thanks our partners and sponsors for their continued support and thanks you in advance for your interest, enthusiasm, advice, prompt response, support, and active participation.

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